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For Baird Foundation, Only Thanks

THERE IS UNREST WITHIN THE NATIONAL Council of Churches because it has received minor financial assistance from foundations now alleged to be "linked" with the Central Intelligence Agency.

One of the foundations mentioned is the David and Winfield Baird Foundation, a familiar name to Vermonters. This is one of the Baird Foundations, which together probably have given more to Vermont institutions and charities than any other nonresident, private agency.

This is the story as reported by the New York Times:

"For four years before 1965, Dr. (R.H. Edwin) Epsy (executive secretary of the National Council of Churches) said, the David and Winfield Baird Foundation gave about \$3,500 annually to the council for 'direct relief' of migrant workers and American Indians. The Baird gift was ended two years ago.

"An official of the World Council of Churches, the Rev. Dr. Philip Johnson, said

his organization had been receiving \$600 annually for several years from the Baird Foundation for work with refugee children. He said in an interview that he knew of no other gifts linked with the intelligence agency."

Vermont has received thousands upon thousands of dollars from the Baird Foundations — for educational, medical, and psychiatric institutions and as direct aid to individuals in need.

We are quite sure that Vermonters are nothing but thankful to the Baird Foundations for their gifts, which have contributed so much to progress and well-being.

The gifts to the church councils for refugee children, migrant workers and American Indians exemplify the Baird Foundations' concern for the distressed and underprivileged. It would appear that the church councils should be thankful, too, for Baird help with their good works, far removed, from intelligence and international intrigue.